

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1068  
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the members of the  
Figueroa Church of Christ for their meritorious  
service to God and their community.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution is the Figueroa Church of Christ, which serves as a ray of hope in the Los Angeles community; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Richard Hogan conducted a gospel meeting at 110<sup>th</sup> and Wilmington Street, in Los Angeles, California, and baptized forty-four people; and

WHEREAS, returning to Los Angeles in 1938, Richard Harold held another gospel meeting and baptized an additional forty people into Christ at 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Compton Avenue, and he thus became the minister of this new community of believers; and

WHEREAS, Richard Hogan and the Figueroa Church of Christ spread the Gospel's good news throughout California and established congregations across the state; they were instrumental in the founding and establishment of Myrtle Street, Southside, Alondra Avenue, and Eastside Churches of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Figueroa Church of Christ grew rapidly, and in 1945, the congregation purchased a church building for \$10,000 and moved to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and McKinley Avenue in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, after purchasing the Figueroa Christian Church building at 57<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Street for \$150,000, the congregation moved to its present location in 1953 and began

an expansion project in 1966; the Figueroa Church of Christ built a new auditorium seating 1,500 people, fifteen new classrooms, a baptistery, and office rooms; and

WHEREAS, the facilities of the Figueroa Church of Christ also house the Los Angeles Bible College, which was organized and founded by Richard Hogan; and

WHEREAS, following Jesus's command to "go ye forth and preach," the members of the Figueroa Church of Christ are devoted to sharing the joy and peace that can only be found within a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, always striving to meet the needs of their community, Figueroa Church of Christ has a bus ministry, a clothing and food center for the poor, and a day care center; and

WHEREAS, the Figueroa Church of Christ currently has two full-time ministers, Calvin H. Bowers and Christopher Mitchell; six elders, Clarence Beverly, Charles Cline, Raymond Griffin, Henry Oliver, Larry Smith, and Forest Whitaker, Jr.; and twelve deacons, Jessie Barfield, Ruben Boykin, Sr., Arthur Briggs, Robert Earls, Jr., Fred Fisher, Orlando Murray, John H. Paster, John M. Paster, Henry Payne, Jerome Thompson, Sr., Woodrow Wilford, and Jerome Williams; and

WHEREAS, the Figueroa Church of Christ is among those exemplary institutions upon which a just and orderly society is based; it provides a safe haven for citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it fitting to recognize the members of this exceptional congregation for their exemplary service to God and to the good people of Los Angeles; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we honor and commend the ministers and congregation of the Figueroa Church of Christ for their notable service to the Lord and their fellow citizens and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.